

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05756 041155Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----081017 041204Z /46

O P 041102Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7580  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5756

EXDIS

DAMASCUS FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES

1. EVRON HAS RAISED TWO CONCERNS WITH ME WHICH HE SAID  
BOTH REFLECT CONCERNS OF BEGIN AND DAYAN AS WELL.

2. ONE WAS THE QUESTION TRIGGERED BY A NUMBER OF PRESS  
STORIES HERE AS TO WHETHER THE SECRETARY MIGHT BE  
PLANNING SOME MEETING WITH WEST BANK OFFICIALS DURING  
HIS VISIT. (THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF PRESS SPECULATION  
ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBLE MEETING.) I TOLD EVRON HE COULD  
ASSURE THE MINISTERS THAT NO SUCH MEETINGS WERE PLANNED  
OR WOULD TAKE PLACE. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD  
SOME SORT OF DOCUMENT BE PRESENTED BY WEST BANK OFFICIALS,  
AS HAS BEEN WIDELY RUMORED, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM  
IN ITS BEING ACCEPTED.

3. THE PRACTICE OF ALL PAST VISITS HAS BEEN FOR CONSUL  
GENERAL NEWLIN TO GREET THE SECRETARY ALONG WITH THE  
MANAGER OF THE KING DAVID HOTEL JUST INSIDE THE DOOR  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05756 041155Z

ON HIS ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM. (APPARENTLY THIS RESULTED  
IN A PHOTOGRAPH IN FEBRUARY IN ONE OF THE ISRAELI PAPERS  
OF THE SECRETARY, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, AND NEWLIN  
TOGETHER.) EVRON SAYS THAT NOT ONLY HE BUT ALSO BEGIN  
AND DAYAN ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS PRACTICE EVEN THOUGH  
THEY RECOGNIZE IT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE PWST, AND  
THAT IN THEIR VIEW SINCE NEWLIN HAS NO OFFICIAL STATUS

RECOGNIZED BY THE GOI, IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVING THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY AT THE HOTEL. HE HAD SUGGESTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT NEWLIN MIGHT AWAIT THE SECRETARY AT HIS SUITE. I HAVE URGED THE ARGUMENT THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW PAST PRACTICES AND NOT DISTURB THE "STATUS QUO" AT THIS TIME. EVRON HAS GRUMBLINGLY AGREED NOT TO MAKE "AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT OUT OF IT," BUT ASKS SPECIFICALLY THAT THE SECRETARY BE AWARE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS. I ASSURED EVRON THAT NEWLIN WAS NOT PLANNING TO PUSH HIMSELF FORWARD OR TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF HIS ROLE; EVRON SAID HE HOPED NEWLIN WOULD KEEP AS LOW A PROFILE AS POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION HIS PRESENCE PRESENTED.

4. COMMENT: I UNDERSTAND THIS IS AN OLD STORY AND THAT EVRON IN PARTICULAR HAS RAISED IT AND OTHER SUCH SYMBOLIC ISSUES REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS STUCK TO OUR GUNS. THIS, OF COURSE, WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT HERE WITH THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE, AND WHATEVER HAPPENS ON THIS VISIT SETS A PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE. JUST HOW STRONGLY BEGIN AND DAYAN THEMSELVES FEEL, I CANNOT TELL, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THEY MAY MENTION IT OR SOME OTHER ASPECT OF THE CONSULATES POSITION DURING THE VISIT. IF WE SHOULD TAKE ANY POSITION OTHER THAN THE ONE I HAVE TAKEN, PLEASE ADVISE  
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 05756 041155Z

IMMEDIATELY.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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